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sympathetic estimate of the life of the spirit as it has found expression in poetry, with emphasis on the work of Tennyson and Browning, Arnold and Clough, Morris and Rossetti.—MYRA REYNOLDS.

The Trend of the Centuries; or, The Historical Unfolding of the Divine Purpose. By Andrew W. Archibald. (Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1901; pp. 419; \$1.25.) This volume contains twenty essays or discourses upon conspicuous historical events. The author has so handled his topics as to show that these events were vitally linked together. Each prepared the way for, and ushered in, another, while each and all contributed to the establishment of God's kingdom on earth. Among the subjects discussed are such as these: "The Gulf Stream of Messianic Prophecy," "The Heroic Jeremiah and the Downfall of Judah," "World Empires," "The Fulness of Time," "The Crescent and the Cross;" and then follow topics covering the period of the Reformation and the discovery and settlement of this continent. While the matter of these discourses is not new, it is put in a fresh and fascinating way. The great epochs of history are so skilfully and vividly portrayed that the reader becomes an interested and delighted spectator of the great and inspiring acts of God's providence. The author is acquainted with the best thought of the day pertaining to the subjects that he unfolds, and makes due recognition and use of it. His style also is direct, clear, and forceful. His book will interest and greatly benefit the rank and file in all Christian congregations. The volume has no index, a culpable oversight!—*The Clergy in American Life and Letters.* By Daniel Dulany Addison. (New York: Macmillan, 1900; pp. ix + 400; \$1.25.) We have in this volume a rapid sketch of the achievements of the American clergy in history, poetry, romance, and denominational literature, together with monographs on Timothy Dwight, William Ellery Channing, Theodore Parker, Horace Bushnell, Henry Ward Beecher, and Phillips Brooks. A very complete index adds value to the book. No adequate discussion of so many topics can be compressed into so narrow a space. To attempt it necessarily results in superficial impression. The literary work of the clergy in colonial times is treated with far greater thoroughness by Moses Coit Tyler, in his *History of American Literature*. And while the monographs of our author are interesting, fairly portraying the lives and characters of the distinguished preachers of whom he writes, yet here also there is a lack of thoroughness in his treatment. But the book, so far as it goes, is well written. The style is clear and attractive. The volume

will serve a good purpose. It will often furnish in small compass just the information wanted, and will probably awaken in the minds of its readers a desire for some more comprehensive discussion.—*A New World and an Old Gospel*. By James M. Taylor. (Philadelphia: Griffith & Rowland, 1901; pp. 44; \$0.10.) During the past century the world has become new. This transformation has been brought about by the enlargement of scientific knowledge, the multiplication of mechanical contrivances, devices for fleet traveling and intercommunication, and adjustments necessitated by the discovery of evolution. But amid all these mutations human nature remains unchanged. Its needs are ever the same. And the old gospel, with its immutable truth, can fully satisfy those needs. So men must preach it; not sociology, economics, literature, politics, but Christ, who can transform and save all who come into fellowship with him. This is a timely and weighty address, and should be read by every Christian pastor.—*Prayer; a Practical Treatise*. By A. F. Douglas. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, 1901; pp. 284; 3s. 6d.) This is indeed a practical treatise on prayer. There is no attempt at fine writing; but we have here plain, clear, suggestive talks. The simple aim is to do good. The writer is evidently acquainted with the philosophical discussions of his difficult subject; but he purposely ignores them, and confines himself to what the Scriptures teach, together with the confirmatory facts of Christian experience. His discussion is eminently sane. The limitations of prayer are fully recognized and set forth. The law of prayer, the prayer of faith, the matter of prayer, delay in answering prayer, the Lord's Prayer, in short, prayer in all its phases, is discussed with luminousness and rare sense. But no book is perfect; and this one is marred by repetitions, the elimination of which would greatly enhance its value. Repetition in a series of sermons is often demanded, but in a book to be read at leisure is wearisome.—*Evening Thoughts; Being Notes of a Threefold Pastorate*. By Paton J. Gloag. (New York: Scribner, 1900; pp. x+284; \$1.50.) This book consists of thirty essays, in which the author discusses some fundamental doctrines of the gospel, and many phases of Christian experience. His thought is clear and at times profound. While, however, his style is pleasing and vigorous, it is in emphasis a dead level. Each paragraph has about the same strength as all the others. As one reads he is wearied with the monotony. There is also considerable reiteration, making the impression that these essays are probably sermons revamped. And the author evidently nodded when, in his

"Prefatory Note," he wrote of his "two first parishes." But in spite of these minor defects the volume cannot fail to be useful to the general reader. We especially commend the suggestive discussions of the following subjects: "The Mystery of the Incarnation," "Obscurity of a Future State," "Christ's Triumph in His Cross," "Christian Courage," and "Besetting Sins."—GALUSHA ANDERSON.